

## College Board Revamps SAT

By SOPHIA TANG, IV &  
HAYLEY YE, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

The SAT Reasoning Test has long been a major source of stress for American students, perhaps forming the final barrier between them and their dream colleges. Students and teachers have expressed concerns that the three-and-a-half hour test has strayed too far from its original intent to evaluate a student's academic abilities. Major changes to the SAT in spring 2016 include no penalty for wrong answers, an optional essay and the removal of words like "perquisite" and "chicanery." The man behind this revolution is none other than College Board President, David Coleman.

Through eight simple changes he has better aligned this test to fit regular high school courses. The changes are: relevant words in context, command of evidence, an essay analyzing a source, math focused on three key areas, problems in real-world context, analysis in science and social studies, important documents and no penalty for wrong answers. One of the biggest changes is a reduction of the notorious "SAT vocab words." Boston Latin School students have always had an advantage from

years of studying Latin. With the new change, students wonder if Latin will still hold that same importance and advantage in the test room.

"Latin should be an elective, not a necessity," says Flora Lepeska-True (IV), "Passionate Latin learners can still pursue their love, but it shouldn't be forced upon others. Students could be using that time to focus on other subjects that might give them greater help on the SAT."



STUDENTS STRESSED BY IMPENDING SAT EXAMS

The essay portion has also been criticized for its inability to reflect skills useful in future jobs. Now, not only is it optional and scored separately from the 1600 points that include critical reading and math, it will also test a student's ability to analyze rather than create documents.

Some, however, also think that it is not much of an improvement.

"If the essay isn't inspiring students to develop a voice as a writer

and instead is simply encouraging job-focused and mass-produced writing, then I think it should be removed," said Francesca Violich (I).

Changes focused on math continue to support the College Board's claim of refocusing the SAT to accommodate the "bigger picture" of a student's academic ability. The math section will include three major areas that are commonly applied in a variety of majors and jobs. The reading section will now include social studies and science excerpts in attempt to spark an interest in students and to connect them with the greater community, outside of college and their professional future.

Of course, the revamped SAT still remains a mystery. The class of 2017, which will be the first to test it, will not have the advantage of knowing the test structure, as past years have had. That prompts Mr. David Wood, an English student teacher to admit, "I honestly don't think [the changes are] going to have a big impact on the stress level. Students will naturally be apprehensive about a test that will play a significant role on the next four years of their lives."

For the students themselves, these new changes might be exactly what they need to overcome anxiety and truly showcase their knowledge.

## All Souls' Author Visits BLS

By BIANCA CECCON, II &  
NORA QUINN, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Michael Patrick MacDonald, author of *All Souls* and *Easter Rising*, two memoirs about growing up during Boston's busing controversy in the 1970's and 80's, visited Boston Latin School as a guest speaker for Ms. Robin Kirkpatrick's United States History and American Foreign Policy classes on Tuesday, March 18. A group of 85 students and various faculty members listened to him read passages from his novels and speak about experiences that led him to discover his voice as a writer. MacDonald uncovered how his family faced hardships living in South Boston's Old Colony housing projects.

"I really appreciated when he talked about how everyone has a story," said Camille DeSisto (II). "He said that no matter how great the story, every person's is valid and deserves to be shared."

This idea came through in his anecdotes about his own life." MacDonald wrote in *All Souls* that his troubled but tightly-knit community, the Lower End, "showed three census tracts with the highest concentration of poor whites in America," where "nearly three-fourths of the families

in the Lower End had no fathers" and "eighty-five percent... collected welfare" in the predominantly Irish Catholic neighborhood of South Boston." In *All Souls*, MacDonald describes how his brothers were sucked into crime and how friends and neighbors fell victim to violence and drug addiction. During his talk, he discussed the ef-



STUDENTS ATTEND MACDONALD'S TALK

fect that gangster Whitey Bulger had on crime in his neighborhood: there was an unspoken agreement to sweep these issues under the mat rather than to confront them head-on. "He really spoke from the heart of Boston," Emily Barden (II) remarked. "All his views on human rights were based on the unspoken realities of Boston during busing and the impact Whitey Bulger had on [the city]."

When a reporter working on an article about "the white underclass" for U.S. News & World Report came

to his neighborhood, MacDonald was "just stunned that someone was taking notice." Now he himself is a part of the action. Not afraid to admit to the issues that led to the deaths of three of his eleven siblings, he became a grassroots activist, seeking to make a community-based change. MacDonald told BLS students what a powerful experience it had been to meet the mothers of murdered children. These experiences inspired MacDonald to co-found Boston's gun buy-back program in 1990. It not only decreased violence by reducing the number of privately owned firearms, but also resulted in community building.

"This 'no questions asked' initiative took 1,000 guns off the streets and sent a clear message that encourages young people to reject a life of crime and violence and embrace a life of personal responsibility, hope and peace," reported the City of Boston in 2006.

In an interview with The Bostonist, MacDonald said that the most essential part of promoting change is "to understand change in your own life."

Ms. Kirkpatrick noted that MacDonald "offered the thought that it is critical that people work together around common concerns and reject forces that would divide them."

## News Tidbits

>>>Happy 15th birthday, Anna Jerome (IV)! Anna's Acute Myelogenous Leukemia has relapsed. Let's make Anna's birthday special! Join the Be The Match Registry in support of Anna and other patients like her searching for a donor. On Saturday, April 5th, Anna's birthday, there will be a drive at St. Theresa School in West Roxbury from 10 AM to 1 PM. To participate you only need to be between the ages of 18 and 44, be willing to donate to any patient in need and meet the health guidelines.

Be The Match Registry is operated by the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) to help match patients who need bone marrow transplants or umbilical cord blood when they need it. Seventy percent of all patients who need a transplant don't have a matched donor in their family.

Shout-outs for Anna:

"Hey Anna, missing your smiling face around here! Stay strong and I hope to see you soon. Love you girl!" ~ Ryley Fay (IV)

"To our 'sole' mate Anna! We love you and hope you feel better soon!" ~ BLS Track Team

"Anna, you're one of the strongest people I know. You always have a smile on your face no matter how badly you feel. Stay strong Anna!" ~ Marykate Flynn (IV)

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANNA! - Hope this next year ahead is full of good, healthy times and lots of cake and ice cream. Have a wonderful day." ~ Fondly, Mrs. Gribaudo

"Stay strong Anna! You know we're all here for you and can't wait to see you back at school again!" ~ Caroline Dicenso (IV)

>>>Mayor Martin Walsh has declared March 15 to be Paul Pitts Day in honor of Mr. Paul J. Pitts' dedication to arts education. At a concert coordinated with Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) in the Boston Latin School auditorium on March 15, CMCB honored Mr. Pitts' contributions and leadership and celebrated 15 years of partnership between CMCB and Boston Latin School. Proceeds from the event were used to create the Paul J. Pitts Scholarship Fund, which will support private instruction at CMCB for promising BLS students.

>>>BLS's Science Olympiad "C" team won third place at the Massachusetts state competition on March 22. Congratulations!

>>>Emmanuel Habimana, a survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, came to speak to Facing History and Ourselves students on March 26. An estimated 800,000 Rwandans, mostly of the minority Tutsi ethnic group, were slaughtered by the majority Hutu group.

"Listening to Emmanuel speak about all that he had been through was not only powerful, in the sense that it made the genocide so personal and real for all of us listening, but also in that someone having gone through such horrors could be so brave, strong and determined. He was so compassionate and generous," said Nora Cameron (II).

"It was such an amazing opportunity. I can't even imagine that something so awful happened to him, and I'm so inspired by his courage to tell his story and want to make a difference in the world," said Emily Carrara (II).



Editor’s Note

I’m so excited for you all to experience this issue. It’s half as long, but we’re coming out with issues twice as frequently—expect one every month from now until the end of the year. BLS deserves it. You all deserve it. This community makes BLS worthwhile to attend, and the Argo strives to help bring us closer together.

What you’re holding contains topics from BLS’s first Career Day to a Q&A with 2014’s Most Artistic Male and Female to the Crimean

crisis. We’ve worked especially hard on this issue. We’ve interviewed students, teachers, and alumni for their opinions, and carefully revised and edited our articles to make them balanced and interesting to our readers.

And of course, we have what you’ve been aching for—our glorious crossword puzzle. We’re offering free food to the first person that finishes it.

Also, to Anna Jerome: keep fighting Anna! You have such a bright, positive presence. BLS misses

you a whole lot and we are here for you.

Last but not least, if you’re interested in joining the Argo, we’re holding writing workshops on April 2, 9, and 16 in Room 207 after school. And if you have any doubts on being an Argonaut, remember, we invented the original (and much better) Free Pizza Friday.

Sincerely,  
Alice

Malaysian Flight MH370

By JONATHAN ZOU, III,  
ANTON XUE, II & SYLVIE STOLOFF, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER, STAFF WRITER, & NEWS EDITOR

The international community has throttled into overdrive searching for the missing Malaysian Flight MH370, and their efforts have finally paid off. The missing aircraft was pronounced on March 24 to have sunk somewhere in the Indian Ocean, with no survivors. This news may bring some closure to the devastated families of those on board, but it has not been without heartache and tears. Experts are still unsure of the reason for this inexplicable crash.

From its takeoff on the morning of March 8, the flight showed signs of trouble. Shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, en route to Beijing, the plane’s Aircraft Communications Addressing and Reporting System (ACARS) was disabled. After the transponder was also disabled at 1:30 A.M., air control lost all contact. The flight’s last transmission with air control came from co-pilot Fariq Abdul Hamid: “Alright, good night” were his ominous words. Finally, at 2:40 A.M., even

though the plane was no longer transmitting information, the Malaysian military radar tracked the plane over the Strait of Malacca, hundreds of miles off course of the original flight path. This was the last time the plane showed up on radar before disappearing with the 239 passengers on board.

On Sunday, March 16, the Chinese government announced that Chinese satellites captured images of a large object floating in the Indian Ocean, which they presumed was debris from the plane. With the help of such satellite images, the search for the plane was narrowed down to two areas that cover 23,000 square miles in the Indian Ocean. Although early scouring of these areas discovered little more than seaweed, satellite data from the British company, Inmarsat, eventually revealed that the plane’s last recorded position was in the middle of the Indian Ocean near the city of Perth, Australia, leading Malaysian Airlines officials to regretfully pronounce all passengers dead “beyond a reasonable doubt.” This news hit families hard; one relative was carried away on a stretcher

from the press conference which brought him this heartbreaking news.

Search teams are continuing to look for the remains of the aircraft, a task which is unsurprisingly difficult. In addition to the depth of the sea, which presents itself an obvious obstacle, the investigation is now complicated by the battery life of the recorders attached to the plane’s fuselage, estimated on March 24 to last only two more weeks. These “pings,” which helped Inmarsat track down the plane to begin with, represent the most realistic method for recovering the wreckage. Ships with acoustic detection equipment that can search for these recorders have been sent to the area from Australia.

Theories still run rampant as to why Flight MH370 crashed, ranging from technical failure, hijacking, sabotage, terrorism or problems concerning mental health among those on board. All of these are speculative. All the passengers have been cleared of suspicion, but Malaysian police chief, Khalid Abu Bakar, said the deceased pilots and crew were still being investigated.

Retraction

The *Argo* sincerely apologizes for and retracts the article that ran in the last issue, which falsely stated that Boston Latin Academy was going to become a charter school. We had no intention of defaming or insulting the school and we very much admire BLA’s reputable standing as an exam school. The editors of the forum section extend their apologies for allowing such a rumor to be published without properly checking the facts first. The writer of the article only intended to address rumors circulating throughout the community and now understands the difference between rumor and solid fact, and is deeply regretful for turning those unsubstantiated claims into news. We are retraining our staff and writers to ensure that every fact is double-checked and backed up by a credible source.



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BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL  
78 AVENUE LOUIS PASTEUR  
BOSTON, MA 02115

*Ad Petendum Veritatem.* The Argo strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.

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# News

## First Career Day a Success

By VICKY GRINBERG, II &  
CASSIDY GIACOPPO, II  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

For the first Career Day in Boston Latin School’s recent history, the Junior class gathered in the Dining Hall to gain some insight into the professional world and discover new possibilities for college and a career. Each student had approximately half an hour to talk with each of their three assigned professionals, all of whom were Boston Latin alumni.

“It was a wonderful experience, something that taught me a lot about both college and future careers that I might consider,” Ona Lepeska-True (II) said. “It helped to ease my concern about college and opened my mind to different fields.”

The professionals seemed to appreciate the opportunity to come back and visit their alma mater. After a few rounds of “Is so-and-so teacher still alive and teaching?” the alumni described their careers and studies. The remainder of the time was reserved for open questions from students.

The impressive list of alumni included school principals, psychologists, agents, public workers, engineers and doctors, among many others. Each had his or her own advice to contribute—whether about college, careers or just life.

Mr. Rashaun Martin, principal of Haverhill High School, told his group,



ANNA SCHULIGER (II) AND RACHEL SULLIVAN (II) DISCUSS POTENTIAL CAREER OPTIONS

“You can never be prepared for everything, but you should be.”

While the actual event lasted only two periods, the guidance department had been busy planning it for weeks. Organizers needed to find more than 100 alumni willing to take time out of their day to speak to students. They also spent hours sifting through each

student’s career interest survey to determine his or her placement.

Guidance counselor Ms. Andrea Encarnacao emailed students that the coordinators “tried [their] best to match you with the industries you indicated an interest in from the survey you completed earlier this year.” Ultimately, their time, consideration and preparation

led to an engaging day for all parties involved.

As for the students of BLS, there were mixed opinions, but with a more or less apparent divide. While the juniors were happy with the day, the seniors clearly weren’t.

“I wish that they had done this last year,” said Rachael Novicki (I). “It seems like it was a helpful experience for students to learn about different careers and the seniors

feel a little cheated.” This attitude was common amongst seniors, and many wish they had received the same opportunities as the Class of 2015 and following classes.

Still, however, Career Day seems to be have been a success: the majority of Class II wrote “satisfied” on the post-Career Day Guidance survey.

## Mayor Walsh Boycotts Parade

By JONATHAN LI, V &  
ALBERT MAO, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

This year’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, lauded in the words of Mayor Marty Walsh as a celebration of the “Irish history [which] has been shaped by the fight against oppression,” enforced a policy which many have called oppressive itself. Members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, queer) community were banned from marching in the parade. In protest of this discrimination, Mayor Walsh refused to march himself, continuing a tradition begun in 1994 by Mayor Menino.

Despite two applications from the organization Mass Equality that requested permission for gays to march, the parade organizers stuck firmly to their decision. Parade organizer Philip Wuschke Jr. said marchers weren’t allowed to broadcast their sexual orientation, for fear that the parade would turn into a demonstration.

“Our theme is St. Patrick’s Day and Evacuation Day. It isn’t a sexually

oriented parade. They have parades for that,” he said.

The BLS Gay-Straight Alliance called this idea “absurd.”

“Having [a banner] that says LG-BTQ won’t make this parade all about us any more than a “Green is for Vegan” sign makes the march all about vegans. The overall theme of the Parade, Irish Pride and honoring veterans, will remain intact,” president Maddy Hernstrom-Hill (I) commented.

The Catholic Action League supported the parade’s official stance, commending them for “their determined defense of their Faith, moral principles, and constitutional rights.”

Most students at BLS responded to this controversy with disappointment that the two sides could not reach some sort of compromise before the day of the parade.

“It’s too bad our new mayor...could not take care of this,” said Walter Thom (IV). “I wanted to see the parade this year, but, unfortunately, the LGBTQ [community] could not reach an agreement with the parade organizer[s].”

Many students supported Walsh’s decision to boycott the parade. “I believe this [boycott] is a huge step in the right direction for Boston,” says Philip Weiss (IV), “An action like this by one of its mayors could easily open many people’s eyes, especially since Boston is known to be a highly Catholic city.”

Boston’s parade was not the only one this year to face some challenges regarding LGBTQ rights. New York City’s entire parade was canceled after several sponsors refused to support the event upon hearing its policies regarding homosexual participation. Parade organizers have insisted that they allowed gay groups to attend the parade, provided that they refrain from advertising any LGBTQ symbols or clothing. Others have cited religious reasons for the ban, especially since St. Patrick’s Day is a Catholic holiday. Still, in the first state to legalize gay marriage, many view Boston’s parade controversy as a major cause for concern, and hope to follow in New York’s footsteps should something like this happen in years to come.

## Raise the Minimum Wage

By AIMEE CHAN, III &  
ALICIA ZOU, V  
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Teens representing the Youth of Massachusetts Organizing for a Reformed Economy (YMORE) gathered at the State House on Thursday, March 13, to support a bill proposed by House Speaker Robert Deleo which would increase the state minimum wage from \$8.00 to \$10.50 by 2016.

They were joined by Raise Up Massachusetts employees and 60 national Unitarian Universalist Pastors of Color to call for it to keep unemployment insurance rates at the current level and adjust the minimum wage for

inflation over the next two years. Many representatives agreed to vote for a bill that met all requirements. While the proposal’s hearing took place, many opposers of the bill in its current form protested outside of the State House.

The State Senate and the House of Representatives have historically dealt with minimum wage and unemployment benefits reforms separately. The Senate approved a bill in November 2013 that would have increased the minimum wage to \$11.00 per hour by 2016, however, the House did not pass it. It would have made the state have the highest minimum wage in the U.S.

If the House decides to pass this bill, then it would be the first time the

minimum wage has been changed since 2008. From 2006 to 2007 the minimum wage increased from \$6.75 to \$7.50, and in 2008 the minimum wage increased to \$8.00 – the highest minimum wage in the U.S. then. About 46,000 children dependent on minimum wage earners live in poverty, and the wage now is barely above the poverty line for a single adult.

“The current minimum wage is not enough to support a family right now,” said Julia Hansen (III). “Prices for foods, especially healthy foods, have increased since the current minimum wage was established. When people have to work multiple jobs to survive, it’s pretty clear that the minimum wage is not enough.”

## Spotlight

### Deirdre McKenna



By HANNAH BROWNE, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Dog obsessed. (Previous) pizza-hater. Swimmer. Beach lover. These are just a few phrases to describe Deirdre Marie McKenna, or as some like to spell it, Deedra, Deardra and Dirdra. For those of you who haven’t been blessed with the experience of meeting this West Roxbury native, I’m sorry for you. Even if you don’t know her, she’s six feet tall and always smiling, so you’ve definitely seen her. Deirdre has a piercing laugh, obnoxiously blue eyes and a heart of gold. One time, she actually chased a dog for twenty minutes to save him because she thought he was lost when, in fact, he was outside of his house. Meanwhile, she legitimately thinks her dog, Daisy, is a person. I’m positive she would save Daisy over me any day, but I still love her. Deirdre may seem quiet, but I have never had a boring day with her. She shrieks if anyone moves too quickly toward her, and talks just as much as me, which says A LOT.

I’ve been lucky to know this girl since age three. Deirdre is an after-school assistant at a kid’s theater and on the weekend spends time helping children with special needs. We almost never fight, except when she ruined my class trip to Camp Agassiz because she screamed and called me a bad narrator in front of our friends, but I’m totally over it. Having gotten along for more than a decade, I’m sure our friendship will last a lifetime. We drive to and from school together every day and she never hesitates to chauffeur any adventures we embark on, like the hunt in Senior Assassins, the three gates and driving into random woods down the Cape. She was even too kindhearted to tell me that I was being overbearing when I forced her into the fake boot camp that I ran in first grade.

It’s been amazing to have Deirdre in my life through my ups and downs. She always makes me laugh when I’m grumpy, threatens to beat up anyone who makes me mad, and when I’m sad, bawls her eyes out for me before I even get the chance to cry. If I can give anyone advice during our last few months of BLS, it is to get to know, talk to or just say hi to Deirdre in the halls. I have been lucky to have such an amazing best friend for so long. I know no matter what happens, our friendship will last for the rest of our lives. Hopefully she can deal with me for that long, because I don’t know what I would do without her.



FORUM

Should The Western Nations Intervene in Crimea?



Con

By MINH TRINH, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With its recent annexation of Crimea, Russia has displayed an act of aggression toward the Ukraine, while taking a defiant stance against the Western powers. Many refer to the crisis as “a second Cold War,” while some fear that this may lead to the outbreak of a third world war. Realistically speaking, however, the chances of military intervention are slim, and although some aspects of the Cold War are echoing in the Crimean crisis, this modern standoff between the West and Russia is nothing like the Cold War. Rather than battling the spread of political ideology that threatened capitalism and Western values, today the West is simply battling Russian aggression against its neighbors. Unfortunately, there is no question as to whether or not the West should intervene in the Crimean crisis, because in actuality, the West, with its limited power, is incapable of stopping Russia.

Military intervention is simply out of the question. The United States, the leading military force behind North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), is a nation fatigued from war. After years of constant military excursions, the general populace is tired of war. If Americans were against military intervention in Syria, then Americans would most definitely be against military intervention in the Ukraine, where the U.S. would be up against another superpower. Of course, the United States is part of NATO, a military and political alliance between 28 countries. The problem with this alliance is that contributions to defense remain starkly disproportionate. The strategic plan adopted by NATO in 2010 called for increased spending in defense capabilities. Yet in 2013, only a few nations other than the United States, including Estonia, Britain and Greece, achieved the alliance’s spending goal of two percent of gross domestic product. In fact, Britain and France, which both reached 1.9 percent in 2013, have announced major cuts in their defense budgets this year. Past military interventions by NATO have provided evidence of the alliance’s dysfunction. In Libya, which NATO agreed as a whole to participate in, some nations individually declined, while in Afghanistan, some individual nations cherry-picked types of combat and missions they were prepared to fight, leading to U.S. frustration. It is obvious that many nations would not be committed to the conflict, even if the U.S. called for military intervention in the Ukraine. Russia has made it clear that it does not see NATO as a threat, scoffing at the sanctions put in place by Western nations. The U.S. cannot continue policing the world while the rest of NATO seeks a free ride. Fortunately, President Obama has stated that, “we are not going to be getting into a military excursion in Ukraine,” during a San Diego news station broadcast. Since it is clear that the U.S. is not going to be sending soldiers, it is most likely that the rest of the West will follow suit.

There are also no real benefits to sending troops to the Ukraine. The Crimean crisis is not a second Cold War, but an act of Russian aggression, and NATO is not prepared to go to war for the Ukraine. Although what Russia has done with Crimea is wrong, it is not beneficial to either side to escalate the situation. This crisis remains in Eastern Europe, and does not directly affect the West, and therefore, it is not worth fighting Russia. The only other option for Western nations is to impose sanctions upon Russia, but so far, these sanctions hardly seem to be affecting Russia. In truth, the honest thing to do would be to tell the Ukraine that it is on its own, and that there is nothing the West can do against Russia. But no, the West will continue to threaten and condemn Russia for its actions, while doing little to help Ukraine.

Pro

By EMILY XIE, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

With the recent seizure of Crimea by Russian forces, there has been much debate as to what measures the Western nations should take in the matter. Diplomatic negotiations were attempted, but proved to be ineffective. More recently, sanctions were imposed, but these will not yield results either. It is imperative for Western nations to be more aggressive in asserting their demands against Russian forces.

While claiming that the cause of sending troops into Crimea was to protect the interests of Russian speakers in the peninsula, it has been evident from previous actions that Putin has a not-so-secret agenda. Putin proposed forming an “Eurasian Economic Union,” consisting of former Soviet Union nations in 2011. Putin himself commented, “Along with other key players and regional structures, such as the European Union, the United States, China and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, it should ensure stability of global development.” Attempting to annex Crimea could only be the beginning of a series of Russian imperialistic campaigns, and Western nations must act swiftly to prevent this from continuing.

Diplomacy is too idealistic, as it assumes that both parties will be cooperative. Russia has proven time after time to be uncooperative in diplomatic negotiations. A recent example of this is shown through Russia’s handling of the conflicts in Syria. Despite NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)’s attempts at diplomatic negotiation, Russia still supplemented the Assad regime with arms. Thus, only physical intervention can efficiently and effectively protect Western interests.

Although the U.S. and the European Union have placed sanctions against Putin, sanctions alone will not deter him. These sanctions will not deprive Russia economically enough to cause changes, as there are many other nations Russia can deal with. Added to that is the fact that Russia supplies around one-third of Europe’s energy. With so much at stake, it is unrealistic for a strong unanimity for sanctions against Russia.

Even if the international community can unanimously agree on sanctions, there would not be effective results. Sanctions rarely yield the desired effects, as they negatively impact innocent populations in the States rather than the politicians executing the undesirable behaviors. Sanctions are the easy way out, as they make the leader (Obama) seem as if he is taking action, when in actuality, no progress is being made.

Putin himself has already made it clear that he is not deterred by the sanctions, saying, “We should distance ourselves from the [Western nations]. They compromise us.” A Deputy Prime Minister, Dmitri O. Rogozin, even wrote, “All these sanctions aren’t worth a grain of sand of the Crimean land that returned to Russia.” As Russian politicians have already blatantly expressed how little these sanctions affect them, Obama’s credibility is being called into serious question for not taking a more aggressive approach.

With the Ukrainian government’s actions becoming more far-fetched and desperate, it is crucial for the U.S. and other Western nations to take forcible measures against Russia. As Russia has broken the Budapest Memorandum, it is the obligation of the U.S. as a signer to uphold this security assurance. By vainly attempting to resolve the issue with diplomacy and empty threats, Obama not only fails to uphold this agreement the U.S. is bound to, but he also makes himself appear as a weak leader.

Lastly, to those convinced that military intervention will result in a “World War III,” these concerns can be rest assured. The chances of a nuclear war are marginally slim due to mutually assured destruction. Even Putin is not that irresponsible, as his actions were only encouraged by the belief that he could escape consequences.

The U.S. needs to show Russia that there will be consequences, rather than merely threaten, as previous threats have already proven to be empty. All in all, it is essential for the U.S. to take physical action in the Crimean crisis in order to protect Western principles, uphold its moral obligation to Ukraine and maintain its hegemony.

Forum Question

Should The Western Nations Intervene in Crimea?



Yes, because Russia has violated international laws.  
- Wendy Huang, I



No, unless Russia starts invading Poland and France.  
- Bill Zhou, II



No, because it’ll progress into another world war.  
-Kevin Li, III



They need to decide for themselves. Once they decide and Russia doesn’t retreat, then the West should intervene.  
- Kalea Samuels, IV



Yes, because we need to help our allied countries.  
- Ryan O’Sullivan, V



Russia should take the eastern half of Ukraine because Yushanko is favored in the eastern half.  
-Mark Walsh, VI

FORUM

Duke Pornstar Unveils Societal Problems

By Jake Zhu, I  
Forum Editor

It is the time of year again when colleges flood competitive high school seniors with acceptances to their educational institutions. The prestigious Duke University, however, has recently gained national infamy for offering something other than its academic rigor—a social environment dominated by intolerant anti-intellectuals who engage in the slut-shaming of a female student who has done nothing more than exercise her freedom of expression as a woman. Putting this into context, freshman Miriam Weeks caused a gigantic media storm at Duke in early March when she was revealed to be an actress in pornographic films under the name of “Belle Knox.” Fellow freshman Thomas Bagley recognized her while viewing a porn website and later exposed her identity to his fraternity brothers, who unsurprisingly spread the revelation through gossip and social media. What followed, as you can imagine, was a complete

nightmare for poor Weeks as she faced death threats and demeaning verbal attacks from her classmates and peers.

Although both social conservatives and ultra-feminists may be quick to jump the gun and impetuously attack her either for engaging in the “morally sinful” activity of selling her body or for relinquishing her self-respect as a woman to the male-dominated cyber world of porn, I believe that both sides definitely miss the larger picture—how their short-sighted reaction to her actions reveals the growing hypocrisy and degeneration of society as a whole.

It is no secret that college tuitions are becoming less affordable for families who may not want to dish out \$50-60k a year for a potentially worthless degree. Nowadays, simple campus jobs do not offset the burdens of student loans. Indeed, if you are faced with the decision of selling your labor for minimum wage at a restaurant or engaging in a physically-pleasing activity that could bring in fifty times more money per hour, you may

better understand Weeks’ decision. After all, your body is being “sold” and put to use either way, so why not choose the more financially-favorable option of porn? When critics denigrate Weeks for her job in the sex industry, they are attacking her as an individual who is upholding the values of personal responsibility by trying to stand on her own feet instead of relying on her parents like a stereotypical member of the privileged, white elite.

More importantly, the intense hostility against Weeks’ self-expression unveils double standards of a woman’s role in modern day America. As a firm advocator of a more open, socially-liberal America, I am absolutely disgusted by the negative reactions of many members of the Duke community, which are representative of the backwards culture of our country as a whole. They hypocritically endorse “women’s rights” while restricting the practice of those rights. The individuals today who feel threatened by Weeks’ open display of her sexuality are the

same misogynists who, decades ago, would have campaigned against the pro-choice and pro-voting rights movements that have helped to make women more visible as individuals in society. Kevin Gao (II) says it best when he asserts, “Other than to satisfy the ravings of some traditionalists, I see no reason why she ought to cease.” Indeed, I strongly respect Miriam Weeks for standing up for her freedom of expression despite intense cultural objections. Weeks, as a self-proclaimed libertarian Republican, did not compromise her values, but upheld them as her radical actions accentuated her right to take ownership of her own body and transgress the gender norms entrenched in our patriarchal society.

My only disappointment regarding this controversy is that not enough people are willing to boldly follow Weeks’ footsteps and withstand social opposition to advance women’s rights to financial independence and sexual freedom. So, Belle Knox, you go girl!

A&E

Ellie, I Need Your Love

By Clare Duckworth, II &  
Audrey Milite, I  
Contributing Writers

March 17 is a day for Bostonians to celebrate the festivities of Saint Patrick’s Day. For some, however, it was the opportunity to see Ellie Goulding perform at the Agganis Arena. While the rest of Boston celebrated the holiday by getting shattered, we die-hard Ellie fans waited outside in the not-so-spring-like weather of 20 degrees for hours before the doors opened in order to secure our spots on the floor. This being our third and second times seeing Ellie, one can conclude that we are some pretty die-hard fans.

Finally, after an agonizing fifty-minute wait on the floor, Ellie popped up on stage and broke out with “Figure 8,” one

of the hits from her new album, Halcyon. Ever so casually tearing up and screaming the lyrics with her; we were convinced that we could not be happier. She infected the crowd with her contagious energy as she went on to perform “Starry Eyed,” and sure enough by the end of it, we were all seein’ stars. We were just about ready to pass out from being so in love when she started playing “Stay Awake.” We decided against passing out because she really got us feeling all types of ways with the irony of that song placement.

Simply put, she killed the game. She dazzled spectators with an ever-changing backdrop featuring her iconic delta symbols and an array of vivid colors and patterns. Every now and then she would pull a cute little “white girl” dance move and encourage the crowd to dance along with her. Her adorable

British accent, wild blonde hair and fantastic fashion sense made it even more apparent that she truly is a goddess.

Ellie did a beautiful rendition of “Guns & Horses,” using only a guitar, and performed others such as “Ritual” and “Dead in the Water,” accompanied by passionate drumming. Her band-mate then played piano while Ellie sang a moving cover of “Your Song.” She also performed “Beating Heart,” her new single for the movie “Divergent,” which brought tears to the eyes of those who have completed the series. The best part of the concert was probably when she shocked the crowd with her cover of “Part Time Love,” which was originally performed by the incredible James Blake. I swear to “goddess” that even I was not ready for it. As we were getting into our zones listening to Ellie’s beautiful and soothing voice, we

heard an unpleasant remark coming from the girl behind us: “If this girl [Clare] doesn’t stop singing, I’m gonna punch her...” We guess she didn’t hear our disclaimer of, “DON’T LET US GET IN OUR ZONES.” Don’t worry though, it encouraged us to sing even louder. Meanwhile, Ellie was wrapping up the show with her new hit single, “Burn,” and proved that she really could burn down the house.

We walked out of the Agganis Arena with our mouths open and our throats sore, and with a new appreciation for what a concert is. Her performance was a life-changing experience, and when she announced that she would be postponing touring to write a new album, we weren’t sure whether we should be ecstatic for new music, or devastated that we’ll have to wait another year until we see her again.

The Anime Boston Experience

By Terry Ni, III  
Assistant Forum Editor

Anime Boston is an annual convention celebrating Japanese animation. Events include concerts, panels, games, karaoke, showings and many special guests. This year, the convention was held from March 21 to March 23. Although it definitely wasn’t a disappointment, I can’t say that it was perfect.

As I arrived at the Hynes Convention Center, where Anime Boston was being held, I saw many people walking on Boylston Street dressed as their favorite characters. This crowd was no match, however, to the number of people already inside the convention. The wide halls were more crowded than the halls at Boston Latin School between classes, and the line to the bag check circled around the convention center. This was no surprise, however, since Anime Boston is the fifth largest anime convention in the United States with over 20,000 attendees.

On the first day, I attended an arts and crafts workshop on how to make plushies, which also was a charity event. This year, Anime Boston was raising money to aid the battle against multiple sclerosis. The workshop was extremely fun, but it could have been more informa-



ANIME BOSTON 2014

tive. After a short introduction, everyone was basically left to figure out the instructions. The event was over before I could finish sewing, so I ended up taking swatches of cloth home. That night I attended the main event, a concert by a band from Japan, JAM Project. As someone who has never been to a loud concert before, I was shocked by the volume of the music. I sat in the front row, which intensified the experience. Slowly, however, my ears adjusted to the volume. Although some songs were still too screamo-rock for my liking, I was amazed to find myself tapping along with the music and cheering with the crowd.

One of the biggest parts of convention is the dealers’ area where people get to buy merchandise that isn’t usually found

in stores around Boston. Surprisingly, many products aren’t related to anime or manga. As I walked around the crowded warehouse-sized room, I saw booths selling video game items, steampunk fashion clothing and art supplies. My wallet emptied out as I got the full convention experience of buying random blind grab bags, posters and anime figures.

As an inexperienced convention goer, many things at Anime Boston came as a surprise. In past conventions I have attended, I never needed to show up to an event early in order to secure a seat. I learned, however, that at Anime Boston, just showing up on time, or even showing up ten minutes early isn’t enough to attend a panel. Panels fill up so quickly that arriving half an hour early may get someone a

seat in the back. I missed so many events that I was beginning to think that Anime Boston rigged the popular panels to be in rooms with lower capacity, just so that people would go back to wandering the dealers’ area and spending cash! I finally managed to fit into a panel on sword fighting and realized that the events really do have a lot of people.

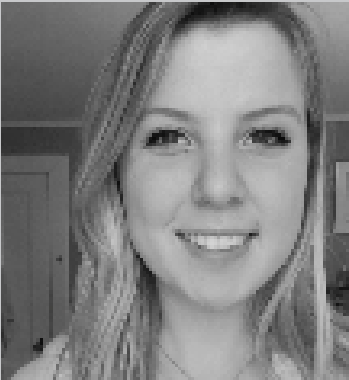
The biggest revelation for me was that people who go to anime conventions don’t necessarily watch a lot of anime! While waiting in line for autographs, I spoke with long-time attendees of Anime Boston who explained that as the convention rapidly grows in size, the actual anime shows become less important, and the fandom becomes more important. Many people go to conventions to see the costumes, hang out with friends and play cards in the halls.

The best parts of Anime Boston were the people and the atmosphere. Although I couldn’t find anyone who could identify the character I had bought in my random grab bag of items, I found many kind people who used their precious cell phone data to help me look it up. With crowds of people wearing colorful wigs, the constant talking and laughing and the thrill in the air, I could almost say waiting in line was my favorite part of the convention.



## Spotlight

### Pam Rioles



By JILL LYDON, I  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

On May 10, 1996, the Earth stood still as Cate and Michael Rioles welcomed new baby Pamela Maltilde Rioles (to be read with British and Italian accents) into this cruel world. Soon, she would grow to conquer and enlighten this very place from atop her throne on Moss Hill. Some know this goddess as “Pam” and most know her synonymously as the “Second Coming of Christ,” but I have had the great honor of knowing this girl as a friend, teammate and alleged eighth grade alternative pop enthusiast (thank God for phases). From a young age, Pam made Jamaica Plain proud. Whether it was on the Daisy Field diamond, holding her own behind home plate, or in the school yards of the Manning and Timility, where she was blessed with the street name, “Wonder Bread,” she climbed her way up the academic ladder that would eventually land her at Boston Latin School. The rest, my friends, is history.

For the past six years, Pam has owned the ice as a member of the girls’ varsity ice hockey team, where she fearlessly defended the blue line with a slapshot that is rumored to leave a fiery hole in even Tuukka Rask’s glove. It is on this team and on that same blue line that Pam and I slowly but surely morphed into one brain. Maybe it was the fact that our only form of communication for the first two years of our friendship was laughter, or maybe it was the panic I felt as a bystander during each practice as Pam would continuously get shoved into the trash can by our older teammates, but whatever it was that allowed us to sync our minds, it sure as hell wasn’t our first encounter.

As Pam previously mentioned in my own Senior Spotlight, I denied her a ride home one day from hockey camp. However, I’d like to take this chance to defend myself by pointing out that she was wearing TIE-DYE that day! Now, I am sure you all understand why I made the decision I did. However, Pam has an extremely forgiving heart and is not one to hold a grudge. She is the type of person to pee herself laughing and to take pictures when you get caught on a barbed wire fence, but never to leave you there. These are the qualities that make Pam the perfect person to be around all the time. She is always willing to help anyone with anything and can do it in virtually any language you can think of. Pam is one of the funniest, nicest and most genuine people I’ve ever had the pleasure of meeting, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison is truly lucky to have such a wonderful person join their school next year. No matter where she goes, I know that Pam will always be the same Prius-driving, R&B lip-syncing dynamo that we know and love. She will strut the campus of Wisco looking effortlessly glamorous in sweatpants and will continue killing the game. But before you go Pam, would you please just shovel your sidewalk?

# A&E

## Spring Style in the City

By VIVIAN HERBERT, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Many wonder if spring ever actually exists in Boston. Maybe this is because it’s often only thirty degrees in late March, or because we’re still haunted by memories of April blizzards. Regardless, there comes a time in the year when one grows tired of scarves and heavy sweaters. Winter clothes become boring, however, it’s hard to navigate the new mix of cool temperatures and thin spring fabrics. This leads to a perfect opportunity for spring staples. Think of them as the Pharrell of trends, clothing crossovers that allow you to be both practical and fashionable. Because let’s face it, as good as that circle skirt may look, being cold is never cute.

A clothing article that always seems to come in handy during these “in-between” months is the denim shirt, which made a comeback last year and has emerged as one of the most versatile and comfortable types of outerwear. The key to dealing with erratic spring temperatures is layering, and denim possesses enough fabric to keep you properly insulated without feeling bulky, especially in a whitewash. It’s even possible to commit to a Canadian tuxedo look (made famous by Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears at the 2001 Ameri-

can Music Awards), without the consequence of grimacing stares. Denim shirts manage to combine the formality of a button down and the carefree ease of a T-shirt all in one.

Everybody loves a good skirt every now and then. Especially with the hope of warmer days ahead, they’re a perfect reminder of breezy sum-

mer afternoons. The only problem is, these days there are a lot more April showers than there are May flowers, so anything that exposes lots of leg can lead to feeling uncomfortable. The perfect solution? Tights. One of the most underutilized accessories, they come in all sorts of different patterns, textures and colors. They can brighten up an

outfit, or simply shield your knees from cooler climates. Tights are also inexpensive and easy to find, allowing you to reinvent old outfits with new and improved leg wear.

Finally, although the name may sound intimidating, combat boots are the perfect tool for early spring fashion. They have the durability to trudge through gross sludge and snow, while also looking “careless hip” with any kind of outfit. As much as sandals seem tempting, very few shoes are good for walking around in forty-five degree weather. Although converse sneakers also boast the “comfortable but cool” attitude, combat boots have an interesting new-wave vibe that makes the clothing with which they are paired seem more current. Early spring is all about trying to transition your favorite pieces of cold day clothing — simple accessories, like combat boots in black or brown, can surely be of help.

Although the first calendar day of spring has passed and it still feels like February, don’t lose hope that the weatherman will predict warmer weeks ahead. Layering light jackets and practical yet cute shoes are certainly good options during the interim. With the right type of spring style and a sunny disposition, however, there’s no question that good outfits will be in your forecast.



COMBAT BOOTS ARE A “YES” THIS SPRING.

## Play Changes Amid Controversy

By ALICIA ZHANG, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Controversy struck the hallowed halls of Boston Latin School late this March when Boston Globe reporter, Don Aucoin, published an article criticizing the recent production of “Thoroughly Modern Millie” at Newton North High School. Controversy over how Asians are portrayed in the play has caused Boston Latin to change this year’s musical to a more subtle “Urinetown.”

The decision to change the musical occurred on the morning of Thursday, March 20, after Dr. Lynne Mooney-Teta reviewed this aspect of the play with members of the staff. All of those who attended the meeting agreed that it was a matter of bad timing. “If it were not for the media frenzy surrounding the play at the moment, there could have been some very productive conversations about race within the community. However, the Globe article and subsequent editorials had taken the dialogue to a level where it did not make sense to pursue the show,” Mr. Gels says.

The play utilizes negative stereotypes about Asian Americans, such as having characters be Chinese laundrymen, speak with caricatured accents and be involved in the illegal sex trade. A Mrs. Meers further exaggerates offensive stereotypes as she controls the two laundrymen.

Audience members watching the Newton North production have described the experience as “difficult to sit through,” especially for Asian audience members, for it reminded them of

discrimination that they experienced or witnessed in the past. While Newton North has decided to cancel any more productions of “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” other schools have decided to perform a more sanitized version of the musical. For instance, the Dalton School, a private school in Manhattan, performed a censored version, with the playwright’s permission, after initially deciding to cancel the show. Brookline High School also performed its own revised version last month by rewriting the part of Mrs. Meers to change her from Chinese to South American, and then turning her two Chinese laundrymen into undercover police officers.

On the flip side, some viewers of the musical have claimed that the show is neither racist nor stereotypical at all. For instance, Robert W. Tang, who has been called the Godfather of Asian American Theatre, makes several points on the portrayals of the Asian characters. He believes that progressive critics may fret that the Asian characters are “clueless clowns” or the “butt of jokes.” Tang states, however, that every character in the show acts like a “clueless clown.” Another point Tang makes is that an Asian character ends up getting “the girl,” who is in fact Caucasian.

Critics of the musical must also be careful to make a distinction between the 1967 film on which the play was based, which is regarded as racist, and the 2002 musical, which is not. The musical does require the audience to sit in discomfort at the portrayal of a racist character. This is intentional, however, for it prompts the audience to

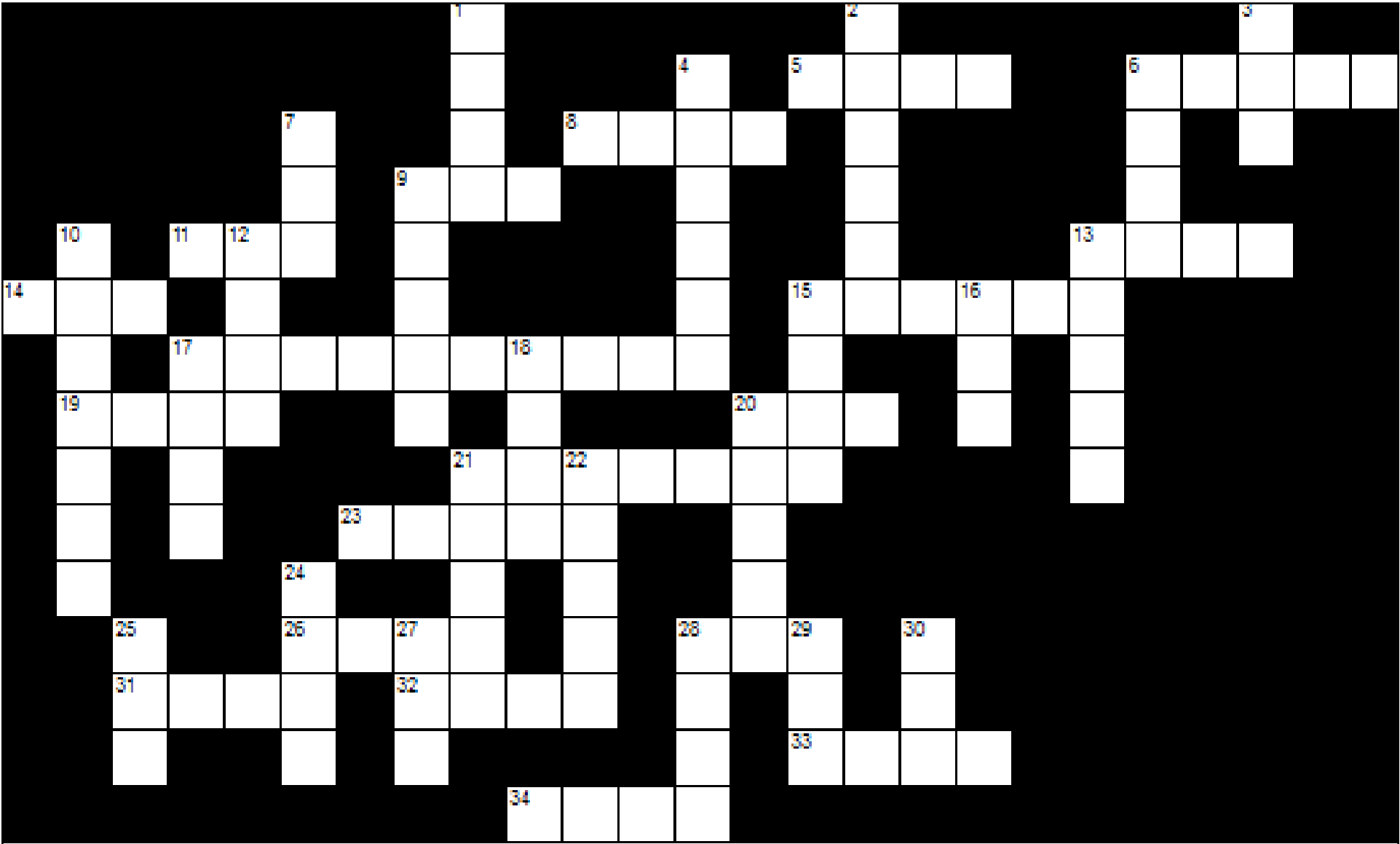
ask themselves why they are uncomfortable. Furthermore, this musical actually teaches the audience about the history of Chinese discrimination in America, which is often overshadowed by the more prominent segregation between Caucasians and African Americans.

Although the decision to change this spring’s musical at BLS was made with careful consideration, it is disappointing to say the least.

“In theatre and all art there is an important distinction between portrayal and endorsement. And I feel like the attacks on the show comes from a lack of understanding of this detail,” says Mr. Gels. “[Mrs. Meers] is the villain of the piece. When a villain holds a view it is implied that their views are wrong and should be held in contempt. It is like the character of Velma in Hairspray who is racist against black people. You are not supposed to see these characters on stage and believe that their views are ones you should adopt. It would be like seeing a superhero movie and thinking that it endorses world domination. There are two Asian characters in ‘Thoroughly Modern Millie’ who exist to contrast with Mrs. Meers. They are two genuine human beings. Yes, they have silly moments but it is a musical, everyone has silly moments. And the two of them are the heroes in the end. Saving the day and defeating Mrs. Meers.”

Despite this letdown, “Urinetown,” the replacement musical, is Mr. Gels’ favorite musical of all time.

“I just wish that we were doing the show under different circumstances,” he said.



Across

- 5. Capital of Peru, a bean town?
- 6. Facebook’s Winklevosses
- 8. Something borrowed, something new, something
- 9. Popular Vietnamese fare
- 11. Alternative for cool
- 13. 188th word on the Duke pornstar article
- 14. Indoor rowing machine (abbr.)
- 15. DANGER ZONE (hint: ISIS)
- 17. Infamous time of day and date
- 19. Bassoon cousin
- 20. I have as many Oscars as does \_\_\_\_
- 21. Amount Warren Buffett offered for the perfect March Madness bracket

- 23. Costliest battle for the U.S. in WWII
- 26. “Milk’s Favorite Cookie”
- 28. Poseidon’s domain
- 31. Unbacked currency; Italian auto-maker
- 32. Adam’s arboretum
- 33. Kind of exam
- 34. Beauty mark

Down

- 1. Mascot of Pokémon Gold
- 2. Marilyn Monroe’s last husband
- 3. Caltech rival
- 4. Citi Bike’s Boston sister
- 6. Breaking Bad’s psychotic drug kingpin
- 7. Square in Moscow
- 9. There’s only one pair of these in a family, figuratively
- 10. French breakfast bun
- 12. Skin soother and medicinal plant
- 13. Largest US Army base, population-wise
- 15. Word of agreement: “ \_\_\_\_ ” sister!
- 16. The world’s most deadly disease due to a single infectious agent

- 17. Main love interest in Divergent
- 18. Smoking without the side effects (abbr.)
- 20. The 2014 Grammy Best Pop Solo Performance
- 21. House of Cards Frank loves Claire more than sharks love \_\_\_\_
- 22. The other Russian -in
- 24. Tiniest bit
- 25. NYC international airport (abbr.)
- 27. Japanese delicacy
- 28. “Gas Pedal” Artist “ \_\_\_\_ ” the Gemini
- 29. Basic Latin verb, first person singular
- 30. Distinctive period

Art Spotlight  
Bryce Fisher & Shirley Fang

BY ALLIE KENNELLY, I &  
GRACE MANN, I  
A&E EDITORS



SKETCH, MICRON PEN BY BRYCE FISHER

The senior class held their senior superlative election in early March during which they selected Bryce Fisher and Shirley Fang as the most artistic members of the class of 2014. The Argo sat down with Bryce and Shirley last week to get the lowdown on their artistic prowess.

**A&E:** How do you feel about being voted most artistic?  
**Shirley:** It's great to be recognized for what I love to do. Art is my passion and I'm glad it shines through.  
**Bryce:** I was really surprised to

be voted most artistic because I never really viewed myself as such.  
**A&E:** What’s your favorite type of art to do and why?  
**Shirley:** My favorite medium is acrylic. Painting with acrylics for the first time at Artists For Humanity made me realize my potential as an artist and now I can't stop painting. Everyone should try painting some time.  
**Bryce:** My favorite, hmm... Although right now I'm focusing on watercolor, I would like to say building. It may not be directly seen as art but I really like soldering and making electronics. I think there is art in that. I like it probably because I like to see things come alive. When I was in fourth grade I wanted to be an artist but I was discouraged when I saw the talent the world had to offer. It’s funny because I forgot that I used to have a goal of being an artist.  
**A&E:** Are you planning on pursuing art as a career?  
**Shirley:** Yes, I definitely want to include art in my career, but I want to combine science as well, like psychology, sociology or anthropology.  
**A&E:** Who is your favorite artist and why?  
**Shirley:** My favorite artist has been a watercolor artist, Agnes Cecile.

She makes the most beautiful portraits and paintings, creating such flow with the colors and composition.  
**Bryce:** I was never really inspired by anyone specifically, mostly cartoons. Recently I’ve been inspired by an artist named Greg “Craola” Simkins, since his style really suits my imagination.  
**A&E:** Outside of school do you participate in anything artistic?  
**Shirley:** I have been working every summer at a non-profit called Youth Design. This is an amazing place for me to discover my artistic passions and also hone my skills in thinking critically and solving problems.  
**Bryce:** Outside of school I’m not really involved in anything artistic.  
**A&E:** How has art shaped who you are today?  
**Shirley:** Art has been a major part of my identity. It was difficult for me to make the choice of pursuing art and following my dreams because I always saw myself as more of an academic student. My decision to have art in my life showed me that I am brave enough to strive for what I love and enjoy.  
**Bryce:** Art really has shaped me. The way I think and remember things is completely visual. When I memorize

things, it’s like they are floating in my mind. It has caused me to be very imaginative and also spacey. I think because of my link to art, my imagination just runs wild sometimes. That is when you’ll just see me randomly spacing out into another world. Art has influenced my interest in violin, dancing, singing and other creative things. All of which I’m not really good at but I’m comfortable attempting. I am almost drawn to them as if they are another form of expressing my ridiculous imagination that seems to explode if I don’t find some way of venting it out. I might also add that it has made it a lot easier for me to learn Chinese, being as it is a visual language.



BUST OF MR. FLYNN, CLAY SCULPTURE BY SHIRLEY FANG



# The Season of Injuries

## Spotlight Mary Tarantino



BY LILY CAFFREY-LEVINE, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Mary Tarantino is known for many, many, many things. Some may know her for her infamous Twitter rants, others for being the cheerleader that looks like Barbie. I’m also pretty sure she coined the phrase “team no feelings.” In fact, she’s the one who made the sophomore class even slightly relevant. However, I’m not going to tell you about all the things Mary is famous for. I’m going to tell you about all of the things Mary never gets recognized for. Am I about to gas Mary? Yes. Do I care? No, because Mary doesn’t get enough credit.

To start off, Mary is the most honest person I’ve ever met. We all have that friend who is really truthful. Mary takes that to the extreme. If you ask Mary if your brand new dress is cute when it’s really ugly, she won’t just say it’s ugly, she will call it ugly, make up two new words for how ugly it is and then tell you to take it off. But right then and there, Mary will find you a new dress, one that looks way better on you. She can be brutally honest—to the point where it hurts—and she will let you know when you’re making a mistake. Still, she’ll be your biggest supporter when you make the right choice.

She also only eats pickles and pasta. That’s not relevant, but, I mean, how many of you knew that?

Another unknown fact about Mary is that she always has a story. Whether it’s about what happened last weekend or a recent fight with her parents, she will always keep you entertained. I can’t even tell you how many times I have gotten a text from Mary at seven in the morning on a Sunday saying, “I have stories for you.” You have to listen to her stories because they always have hidden messages. Mary can teach you some very valuable life lessons. Listening to her stories, you just sit there thinking, “Is this true? None of this even sounds possible.” But like I said before, she’s brutally honest.

Mary wasn’t always the fabulous and courageous Elle Woods look-alike, with her blonde hair and tiny pet chihuahua. That’s right, the famous Mary Tarantino has a past. From her humble beginnings, wearing a green jumper at Holy Name, she rose up to be a big, bad Boston Latin School student, following in many of her relatives’ footsteps. From there she discovered the world of yoga pants, rolled down UGGs, Victoria’s Secret sweatshirts and eyeliner. As she grew older through the high school years, Mary turned into the sassy, brave bombshell we all know her to be today. Her rise to fame came completely from her determination and driven attitude. If Mary really wants something, she will stop at absolutely nothing to get it.

Chances are, you have crossed paths with or have been affected by Mary. She is leaving a huge legacy behind at BLS, and for 2015, that’s a tough act to follow.

BY HAZEL HALLAS, III  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the 2013 National Football League (NFL) season came to a close with a fantastic Super Bowl XLVII, there is one story that looms larger than that of smack-talking cornerback, Richard Sherman, and even larger still than the stomp of the NFL’s greatest offense of all time, the Denver Broncos. It is the story that has partially defined the NFL for the last decade and continues to linger without definitive answers. It is the story of injuries.

Injuries have been a major problem in the NFL for some time now, but 2013 has been considered “the year of the injury,” setting the record for the most players put on an “injured-reserve” which deems the player out for the season. These statistics add to an ongoing debate about concussions and whether the NFL, specifically Commissioner Roger Goodell, is doing enough to prevent further brain trauma for football players both on the field and after they retire. From 2012 to 2013, the number of injuries increased by only five injuries. From 2013-2014, however, it increased by 46 injuries.

The NFL has made various attempts to reduce these severe injuries. Safer helmets and padding have been given to players. The NFL has also reduced the amount of full-contact practices each team can have per week both during the season and during the pre-season training camp. These new innovations and

regulations seem to be of little help despite the claims made by the NFL that there was a 13 percent decrease in the amount of concussions in 2013 compared to 2012. Many players and families of former players still insist that the NFL is not doing enough to stop these life-changing injuries. The NFL is currently working on a 765 million dollar settlement that is meant to



49ERS LINEBACKER NAVORRO BOWMAN'S HORRIFIC INJURY

cover 20,000 retired NFL players due to concussion claims.

Another injury that has also hit the NFL hard is leg ligament tears, specifically ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) and MCL (medial collateral ligament) tears. These are the injuries that not only cause players to miss enormous amounts of time on the football field, but they also affect all other major sports leagues as well. Like the rest of the injuries in the NFL, the number of ACL injuries grew over the last few years, with a spike in the 2013 season. Just through week eight of the 2013 regular season alone, there were 45 reported ACL injuries, compared to approximately 32 injuries in

all of the 2012 season. Although there seems to be an increase in the amount of concussion and serious leg injuries, it begs the question of whether or not these numbers represent an increase compared to the years before records of injuries were so stringently kept.

Boston Latin School Athletic Director, John McDonough, commented on the alleged increase of injuries in football. From his experience as a high school football coach, he thinks the amount of injuries in football today are about the same, or possibly less than the amount that occurred in his head coaching days. He stated that the awareness of these “new” injuries (led by the doctors who began research on NFL concussions back in the 1990s) has generated far greater precautions against all injuries. These precautions have made it seem like injuries are rising at an alarming rate, when perhaps part of the reason for the increase is due to more advanced technology that allows the detection of the severity of injuries.

Whether or not the amount of injuries in sports has increased, it is always going to be a problem affecting all athletes. Every sport, not just football, may have to learn the hard way, just like the NFL did, that fans and families are not going to tolerate the sport and its leadership if it puts the lives of their loved ones or their favorite players in jeopardy. At some point, however, injuries have to be put in the past and the games in the future still have to be played.

# Boys’ Volleyball Team

BY JEFFREY ZHOU, IV  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The boys’ volleyball season is kicking off to what looks like an enthusiastic start. The coach and the team are both ready to have a successful season this year with the experience of older players and newer additions. Even though the team has said their farewells to the seniors and accepted new members, they have kept much of the same attitude towards the games as they did last year.

“Philosophically, we won’t change much,” said Coach Konstantin Dimov, who is known as Konstantin to the players. “But because we have more people trying out this year, and we have some more experienced players than last year, hopefully the level of what we do can be higher.”

At practice, the squeaking of sneakers fills the upper gym with upbeat vibes of optimism.

“I’m really pumped for this year,” said Kenneth Zhang (VI), a new member who tried out this season. “I was thrilled to have made junior varsity, and I’m going to work hard for the team and become a better player.”

Overall, it seems the team has gotten stronger; both in the individual

aspect and in their communication between teammates, an important factor in winning games. Coach Konstantin recognizes that there is always room for improvement. “We’re still kind of a work in progress. We have some kids coming back from last year that I think will be pretty strong. And we have



BLS PLAYER SETTLES THE POINT

some new players that, by the end of the year, will have a little more experience,” he says.

Despite losing all varsity games and all but one junior varsity game last season, the players have continued to be optimistic and dedicated to the team. They can be found practicing in the upper gym after school every day, with many players rushing to the locker room to get changed and playing. Full time commitment is expected, including throughout April vacation. Their hard

work is clearly evident in their workouts, and their positive attitude is contagious.

“We like to stay optimistic,” says Andrew Luo (IV). “You go home completely sore, and the next day you’re expected to give it your all... again.”

Even though it is hard, challenging work, players find it enjoyable, and they never lose focus on improving themselves.

“There isn’t a constant set of drills we have to do every day; it’s always dynamic and changing,” said Kevin Zhang (IV). “We design our practice around the certain skills that we need to work on. Whatever abilities that we lack, we practice and improve.”

The coach shared his own experience with volleyball and gave out some advice to anyone aspiring to be a better player. “I started playing in high school. I was very lucky to have a very good coach, who inspired me to keep playing. My advice to anyone would be to just find someone and play.”

Zhang, the freshman player, reflected on the upcoming games.

“I’m pretty confident overall for this season. We’ve all been working hard, and as long as we keep going I can’t see anything that can stop us.”

Let’s all wish the best of luck to the boys’ volleyball team this season.